

# Principles for Collaboration

## Priority Rankings

Number One Goal: Strong Health and Human Service delivery with confidence in leadership, and a certain amount of local control/equal governance.

Collaboration must uphold the public interest of the organization, while providing member counties fair representation within the governance structure.

- ✓ Point One - Adding strength to existing systems through joint ventures should allow all systems to become stronger; shared administrative arrangements will result in the most dramatic savings overall.

Counties should explore and promote cooperation and coordination between entities to avoid unnecessary duplication of services and to maximize the resources available to all communities they serve.

- ✓ Point Two - Governor's Budget Proposal is beginning to put pressure on continued movement toward multi-county service delivery. We want to be the ones in the driver's seat...not the state.
- ✓ Point Three - Collaboration efforts are sometimes difficult and may fail. While some residual effects may remain, it is crucial counties continue to explore possibilities to work together. "If at first you do not succeed..."
- ✓ Point Four - Movement toward one county system could result in tremendous pressure to continue to move in that direction, which could also result in a county's individual desires and voice being weakened. (See Point Five).
- ✓ Point Five - Timelines and process around multi-county collaboration should always be a joint venture. The system must be build cooperatively, with all parties involved in the process, continuing to shape the agency based upon each community's/county's individual needs.

Counties should regularly measure the multi-county collaboration against a clear set of performance standards and whether or not the collaboration is fulfilling the goals of the organization.

- ✓ Point Six - The decision making/collaborative process needs to be open and transparent. Counties have an obligation to conduct their activities with accountability and transparency. Information should be easily accessible and create external visibility, public understanding and trust in the organization.
- ✓ Point Seven - A county needs to have confidence in its ability to be an equal stake holder in the midst of the other entities within the system.
- ✓ Point Eight - Early, positive experiences within collaboration allow for expansion in the level of partnering. Expansion continues to make sense, particularly in light of pressure to continue to integrate health and human service models.
- ✓ Point Nine - Given the possibility of an eventual larger region, multiple counties together can negotiate from a stronger position with neighboring counties than any can do alone.
- ✓ Point Ten - Exploration of all regional options and continued work toward lowering infrastructure/administrative costs will result in slowed growth in county levy cost in years to come.